S'COOL BREEZE

Student's Cloud Observations On-Line

Volume 1, Issue 2 August 1998

Notes from All Over

S'COOL team visits Schools

In May Lin Chambers and Carolyn Green visited a number of schools in France and Switzerland, where they observed and taught in some of the participating S'COOL groups. At American School of Paris, students in the Middle School wrote in their website "…Our students have been using scientific and technological tools in an integrated fashion, mirroring true scientific work and validating their own skills and abilities."

Students at Thomas Monod School in Billiers, France, wrote an essay about their experiences with S'COOL. Martial, Edouard, Laetitia and Nicolas, who are between 8 and 11 years old signed their essay, the "Bulletins future scientists."

Students at Maze were eager to show their NASA visitor how they made their S'COOL observations. At Ecole du Chateau and at Maze Lin and Carolyn were entertained with energetic singing and challenged with good questions.

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S'COOL MEETS MRS. CLINTON

NASA Teams With CNES for Demonstration

May 13 was a red letter day or perhaps we should say a red, white and blue day, for students in the United States and France participated in a first-time ever science educational collaborative event. The first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the Ecole Nationale de Chimie-Physique-Biologie (ENCPB) in Paris, a technology school chosen by the Ministry of Education for this project. A transatlantic computer hookup between the United States and Paris had been installed at ENCPB allowing dignitaries and students to exchange greetings and information.

Eric Morgan interprets for First Lady

Following a month of preparation students were prepared to show Mrs. Clinton the capabilities of the French Titus software and NASA's S'COOL program. France's Department of Education had developed the Titus software using SPOT satellite images which were used by students to tour cities, compare vegetation, water sources and anti-pollution measures. The U.S. space agency NASA had developed the S'COOL project, one which involved students in support of its CERES project.

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Two schools in Paris, one in Washington, D.C. and one in Brooklyn, N.Y. participated. Students gave tours of their respective cities using the SPOT images by remote control and with live audio responded to questions from the other sites. Then using the S'COOL program students shared results of cloud observations with on-line photos and script. Students were able to communicate back and forth with the new ichat technology as well as live audio for this special session.

Students in one school asked students in another to explain some of the observations that differed from the satellite report. Mrs. Clinton had a question for students also. She wanted to know where the White House was on the SPOT image. Students translated the French for the first lady and the English for Mme Segolene Royal, France's deputy education minister, who also attended the day's event. U.S. ambassador Felix Rohatyn and his wife Elizabeth accompanied Mrs. Clinton on her visit to ENCBP.

Larry Hoffman, former astronaut and now NASA's European representative coordinated the event. Also at that location were S'COOL project director, Lin Chambers and educational specialist, Carolyn Green along with a host of technology support personnel.

The two U.S. schools were Kramer in Washington, D.C. and the Brooklyn School for Global Studies in New York. Students at Brooklyn were Devon McGreal , Raymond Martinez, Ruben Morales, Jamal Smith, Amy Connolly, Hector Rivera, Mohammad Algamoos and Maritza Reyes. In New York students at the Brooklyn School for Global Studies welcomed M. Richard Duque, Consul General of France; Mme. Francoise Cestac, Ms. Verna Lauria, Executive Asst. to Basis Superintendent; Ms. JoAnna Maccario, Deputy Superintendent District 15; Ms. Patricia Lawrence, Executive Assistant District 15; Mr. Robert Zuckerberg, UFT District Representative; Ms. Ronnie Solow, Director of Special Projects, School Programs and Special Services and Mr. John Saul, project Manager/Office of Technology Services. Martial Haeffelin from NASA, Langley Research Center assisted teachers Alan Doctor, Robert Kalish, Ms. Laurel Butler, Media Center Coordinator, Ms. Miriam Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant and Ms. Mykele Westervelt, Computer Coordinator. Principal Larry Abrams hosted the event at his school.

At Kramer special guests included NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin and French Ambassador to the U.S. Francois Bujon de l'Estang and Bruce Barkstrom, senior scientist for NASA's CERES project. Assisting teachers Reginald Speight and Rose Howell were Anne Racel, from Langley DAAC and Shelley Canright, Langley's Pre-College Director. Students at Kramer were Kieshauna Brown, Willie Call, LaShawn Davis, India Hemsley, Daniel Hill, Terrine Ingram, Ebony Kibler and Gregory McCants

In all locations the real stars were the students. Whether they were dealing with security or dignitaries students knew what to do. As Kramer Principal Berry said, "There was none of that, "Where do I go, what do I do?' " They conducted themselves with tremendous poise and confidence.

Four Upper School students at the American School in Paris who participated in the live demonstration in Paris were Amaud Desaedeleer, Kristen Fortney, Ahenry Joost and Eric Morgen. Also at the ASP in the Middle School were students who contributed to the written text and photography. They were Jamieson Cash, Camille Cathelin and Alex Weldon . They were assisted by their teachers Charlie Arent, Laura Forish and Michel Lami.

The NetMeeting and Ichat over the Internet and videoconference hookups were provided by NASA. Students have since expressed a real interest in continuing the kind of exchange made possible by the hard work of so many people. ■

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Poquoson, Virginia, students created booklets on Meteorology. One creative student interpreted the anachronyms TRMM, CERES and S'COOL and then added a new one, MGEN. Correctly interpreted that stands for Mitchell Goldan Explores NASA. After hearing Dave Young's presentation Madelyn Healy wrote, "This is really neat." Shannon wrote in hers that before they made observations, "…we did not know it yet, but we were going to become scientists seriously."

While in Paris Martial Haeffelin visited students at Ecole Joliot-Curie, Ecole des Hospitalieres Saint Gervais and the American School in Paris. Many students said they would like to continue working on the project next year.

Check Out Home Pages

American School in Paris has their own home page <http://asparis.org/nasa/nasau.htm >

FAQ

GLAD YOU ASKED

1. Why does the longitude appear as a different number from what I am used to seeing on the Satellite Overpass? Answer: In the program we are using all longitude readings are reported as 360 degrees minus your location. Example: Roanoke VA is 37.30 degrees N and 79.93 degrees west. With this program Roanoke's latitude is 37.30 and longitude is 280.07.
2. How large is a pixel? Answer. Pixel size can vary with different instruments. With the CERES instrument the pixel is 1 square km
3. How do I know when to observe? Answer: On the Satellite Overpass printout you will notice it gives, in universal time, the day first followed by the month, the year, hour and time. That is followed by the local time.

TRY THIS

OXYGEN VS. AIR PRESSURE

MATERIALS:

ALUMINUM PIE PLATE
QUART SIZE JAR
CANDLE
MATCHES
WATER

DIRECTIONS

1. Fix candle to bottom of pie plate with soft wax.
2. Fill pie plate with 2 cm of water. Place jar over candle.
3. Divide height of inside water level by height of jar and x 100 to determine % occupied by water.
4. Light candle and place jar over candle.
5. Observe water level inside jar and record your observation.
6. Repeat steps 2 and 3.

CONCLUSIONS

What could have caused the water level in the jar to change?

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Washington, D.C. Dr. Bruce Barkstrom comments on students work with NASA/CNES project., as Anne Racel from Langley DAAC listens.

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News Bulletin

S'COOL now has 134 registered participants with 14 countries represented.

Email Alert!! If you have an e-mail address and have not received correspondence from us, please notify us

Brooklyn School for Global Studies' students and Dr. Martial Haeffelin reflect on trans-Atlantic communication success.